

Sydney Felsen FCTYG

Shalom! I am Sydney Felsen, Special Projects Coordinator for FCTYG and a junior from Denver, Colorado. I have been a NFTY participant since 7th grade and I got the amazing privilege to be a Camp Rainbow counselor this previous summer! I love to talk (mostly about Camp Rainbow) and sing for my school choir. I also enjoy exploring the mountains and dancing in my fuzzy socks to High School Musical. When I'm not talking about Camp Rainbow, you can find me crying at sunsets or petting dogs.



Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

The main reason I want to be on Regional Board is because I am extremely passionate about both Camp Rainbow and NFTY, and I would love to have the chance to be a leader in Missouri Valley while making a difference with fundraising for Camp Rainbow through the position of Special Projects Coordinator. Being on Regional Board would give me the opportunity to ignite a passion within others for Camp Rainbow. I plan on increasing Camp Rainbow fundraising by having more communication and support throughout my network. As an SPC I understand how difficult it can be when you are trying to come plan a fundraiser to express your passion for Camp Rainbow, so having a tighter network of fellow SPC's is a great place to openly share ideas and get feedback. Camp Rainbow changed my life and I want to share that experience with as many people as possible.

What are your qualifications for the position of SPC?

This past year, I served as FCTYG's Special Projects Coordinator. Throughout the year, I led various fundraisers for Camp Rainbow throughout the year at Temple Emanuel. I have also had a lot of experience with planning and leading programs that are both serious and fun. I had the opportunity to help plan JYG 2015, and I also have group led many Camp Rainbow programs at regional events throughout the year. I also have given both formal and informal presentations on Camp Rainbow, which have helped increase awareness for Camp Rainbow and also increased donations. I had the wonderful privilege to be a counselor at Camp Rainbow this previous summer. I personally know the impact that Camp Rainbow can have on both the campers and the counselors. Leaving Camp Rainbow, I never thought my drive and enthusiasm to fundraise and increase awareness of this amazing non-profit program could increase. Yet, with each day I strive to do more for Camp Rainbow.

What traits do you possess that would make you an effective regional board member?

The trait I possess in which I feel is the most important to the position of Special Projects Coordinator is that I am very passionate about Camp Rainbow. I love talking about Camp and the incredible experience I had there as well as the importance of the positive impact it can have on the campers' lives. I am also a very friendly person and I love working with others and

meeting new people. I love making others feel cared for and feel important and I am also very inclusive. Even though my position involves Camp Rainbow, I thoroughly enjoy and am passionate about the other aspects of NFTY as well. I am also creative, in that I strive to make each program or fundraiser different than previously done. When I set my mind on a goal, I am determined to see it through. I also am very flexible and can think on my feet, which is helpful when programs do not go as planned. These traits would successfully allow me to convey my passion for Camp Rainbow through the position of SPC.

What have you achieved in positions of leadership in NFTY you're proud of?

One thing I am proud of is when I worked with Temple Emanuel's 7th graders on a Camp Rainbow program. At first, they didn't seem as interested as I wanted. However, the more I talked with them and added personal connections, I could see their interest and enthusiasm growing. I was most proud when the most talkative boy came up to me showing his letter that he wrote to a camper, making sure that the camper would love it. Seeing kids so excited and passionate at a young age was an indescribable feeling for me. Another amazing moment for me was when I group-led a Camp Rainbow program this previous winter. After this program, two freshman girls came up to me asking about the application process for becoming a counselor and showed their interest in becoming more involved with Camp. One fundraiser that I'm very proud of was FCTYG's success with our coat check fundraiser. This was for the congregants of Temple Emanuel. While the congregants watched an Israeli concert, FCTYG did coat check and collected donations for Camp Rainbow by showing the Camp yearbook and talking about personal experiences.

What are you looking forward to accomplishing for MV? How do you plan to achieve these things?

If elected as SPC, there are many goals I would like to accomplish. I plan to put a larger emphasis on TYG fundraisers as well as regional fundraisers. I am looking forward to having some more focus on serious programs on Camp Rainbow so that participants really get the feel of what it is like to be a counselor, which could help them form a personal connection to Camp Rainbow. During programs we usually talk about Camp Rainbow, but if participants do not truly understand what it is like to be there then they are just simply doing mixer activities. In order to achieve these goals is having a closer network. To get my network closer by having a group snapchat or network pages on various social media platforms and meetings on Zoom every two months. A closer network would result in more support for TYG fundraisers, and it would give members of the network other people to talk to for fundraiser ideas. Another idea I have is a semester long competition for Camp Rainbow donations between SLIID and Western. This would provide a more enthusiastic approach to fundraising, and would give TYGs a set goal to look forward to.